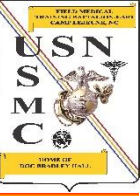


Prepare Religions / Practices Brief



OVERVIEW

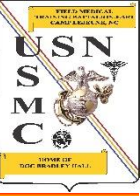


- ◆ **Commander's Intent / RMT Advisement**
- ◆ **Survey/Research Area of Operations (AO)**
 - Prominent Religions in (AO)
 - Religious Leaders / Clergy in (AO)
 - Beliefs & Worship Practices in (AO)
 - Religion's Social/Economic Influence in (AO)
 - Religion's relation with Government in (AO)
- ◆ **Prepare a Brief**
- ◆ **Deliver a Brief**

Enabling Learning Objectives

QUESTIONS

COMMANDER'S INTENT / RMT ADVISEMENT



- RMTs must always possess current knowledge of Command's guidance & intent in order to best support the Command.
- In operational environments Commanders utilize RMT's knowledge of religious and cultural matters.
- RMTs advise on religions impact to mission
- Advisement includes OpOrd/OpPlan (App 6/Annex E)
- Religions advisement is **NOT** intelligence gathering!
 - Exercise care in not violating non-combatant status of the chaplain.

QUESTIONS

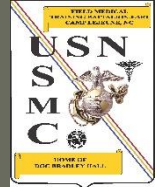
FRESH MEDICAL
RESERVE PORTN HON. RITE
CAMP LEONARD, A.C.

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THEME OF
THE YEAR BY STATE.

- RMTs must always possess current knowledge of available resources to investigate various region cultures and religions.
- The following are good culture information resources;
 - Department of Defense (DOD) Country Handbooks
https://intelshare.intelink.gov/sites/mciakm/Ext/smart_card.htm
 - Library of Congress On-Line
<https://loc.gov/>
 - ProQuest Culture Grams
<https://online.culturegrams.com/>

AO RELIGIONS RESEARCH



DoD Country Handbook (Example)

Afghanistan

For Official Use Only

Ethnic Groups

Tajiks

- Strong community/family ties; no tribal identity
- Sunni of Persian ancestry; speak Dari
- Opposed Taliban; fought with the Northern Alliance
- Wary of Pashtun leadership

Uzbeks

- Sunni of Turkic ancestry
- Speak Uzbek and Dari
- Nomadic and settled communities, mainly in north
- Fought with Northern Alliance against the Taliban

Pashtuns

- Most dominant ethnic group
- Mostly Sunni; minority is Shi'a
- Speak Pashto and Dari (urban)
- Formed Taliban core; remained loyal until its defeat
- Consider themselves the only true Afghans

Hazaras

- Primarily Shi'a; persecuted by Sunnis
- Speak Hazargi, similar to Dari
- Fought with Northern Alliance against Taliban

Baluch

- Primary residents of Nimroz and Southern Helmand Provinces
- Move goods throughout southern Afghanistan
- See smuggling as honorable and manly
- Have historical animosity with Pashtuns

Pashtuns

Since 1747, all but two of Afghanistan's rulers have been Pashtuns. Pashtun society is egalitarian (for males). BC East Pashtun society is individualistic and fragmented. BC South is more hierarchically organized. These differences are reflected in each region's insurgency.

A Pashtun's loyalties lie with his network (*qawm*). Networks are based on blood (family, clan, subtribe), or non-blood ties such as work or life experience (attended same madrasa, fought together, etc.).

Self interest underlies most decisions; the primary concern is small-group survival. Spatially, Afghans identify with the *manqaya* (the territory controlled by a *qawm*), instead of with political divisions like the village. *Manqaya* vary in size. They form the basis for bazaars, schools, and militias, and should be considered when distributing development funds, etc.

Rural Afghans have little experience with central government, and have never seen great power used for unselfish ends. Those in authority commonly use influence to advance self or group. Power is derived from *qawm*, narcotics, land ownership, and control of water or electricity. ISAF and the Taliban are seen as outsiders; their legitimacy is based, in part, on whether their actions are in the best interest of the people.

Do This

- Afghans conduct themselves so as to bring honor and respect to themselves and their families. The following customs should be practiced:
- Shake hands firmly but gently in greeting and departure. Always shake with the right hand.
- Try all food offered. This acknowledges the hospitality of the host. Often, items offered may have been difficult to acquire.
- Understand the nature of Afghan hospitality as an opportunity for the host to display power and gain honor. The host's effort should be recognized.
- Expect to spend much of a visit socializing and drinking tea before discussing business.
- Use applicable professional or academic titles. Titles such as "engineer," "doctor," and "professor," confer recognition of achievement and honor the individual, his family, and his tribe.
- Expect Afghans to have a different sense of time and punctuality. Afghans believe a task will be completed according to God's will.
- Give a gift in return for one received. Gifts acknowledge or initiate relationships.
- Beckon others by extending your hand, palm downward, and curling fingers inward.

Don't Do This

- The essential elements of the Pashtunwali Code are to avoid shame (*haji*) and seek honor (*namaz*) for oneself and one's family. The following behaviors should be avoided:
- Use the left hand for physical contact with others, to eat, or to make gestures; it is considered unclean.
- Sit with the soles of your feet facing someone. It indicates that person is beneath you.
- Show a woman attention by addressing, touching, or staring at her. Don't ask men direct questions about their female relatives.
- Walk away from someone who is speaking to you.
- Tell an Afghan he is wrong if he gives incorrect information. It is considered a slight.
- Express emotion in public; it is considered a weakness.
- Expect Afghans to be able to read, particularly outside urban centers.
- Beckon or point with a finger. It is considered rude and may be mistaken for a challenge.
- Wear sunglasses indoors. It is considered disrespectful of the building's status and its host.
- Offer an Afghan food or drink or publicly consume either during Ramadan, when Muslims fast.

Weights and Measures

The value of Afghan units of weight often varies by region. In addition, one unit of measure may have different values when weighing opium than it is in weighing other items, such as food. Those below are for BC South, and related to opium.

Units of Measure	
Jerib	2000 square Meters/0.5 acre
Hectare	10,000 square Meters/2.5 acres
Tulee	Weight of one AK47 round (10gms)
Puri	Just less than 1KG/2.2lbs
Seer	7 KG/17 lbs
Mann	3.5 KG/8 lbs (BC South) 35 KG/80 lbs (BC East)

Units of Currency (as of March 2010)	
100 Pakistani Rupees	US \$1.20/56 Afghani/11/250 Rial
100 Afghani	US \$2.10/180 PK Rupees/21,000 Iranian Rial
10,000 Iranian Rial	US \$1/50 Afghani/100 PK Rupees
1 US Dollar	50 Afghani/100 PK Rupees/10,000 Rial

Please direct feedback to: feedback@mcia.osis.gov

Marine Corps Intelligence Activity
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Quantico, Virginia 22134-5011
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Published April 2010
DOD-2634-AFG-014-10

Religion

Afghans practice a moderate form of Islam that is unlike the Taliban's version. The following influences contribute to this:

Hanafi Islam – Most moderate of the four Sunni schools of thought.

Sufism – Mystical, moderate form of Islam common in rural Afghanistan. Teaches purification from negative thoughts, emotions, actions; love all people, races, religions; experience God personally.

Tradition – Rural Afghans mix Islam with pre-Islamic traditions, such as saints, shrines for the dead, religious amulets, and superstition.

The Taliban's extreme beliefs are rooted in Deobandism (from India) and Salafism (from the Middle East). These beliefs are foreign to Afghanistan, and are rejected by most Afghans.

Common Terms for Afghan Religious Leaders	
Akhund	Religious scholar/teacher
Amir	Leader of geographic area
Imam	Leader of organization (mosque, madrasa)
Mullah	Lower ranking Islamic cleric
Masliwi	Intermediate level Islamic cleric/scholar
Maulana	High-level Islamic scholar
Pir	Sufi teacher; Highly respected
Qazi	Islamic judge
Sayyed	Descendant of Mohammed
Qari	One who is able to read the Qur'an
Agha	Mr.
Wakil	Lawyer

Pashtunwali

Pashtunwali is an ancient code of conduct that defines Pashtun relationships and individual duties; can supersede rules of Islam. The concept of "honor versus shame" underlies Pashtunwali's basic pillars as follows:

Asylum (Nawawety) A Pashtun must grant refuge to all who ask, even enemies; a household protects a refugee to the death as matter of honor. Offensive behavior by a refugee nullifies *nawawety*; those who commit offenses against women do not qualify for *nawawety*.

Hospitality (Melmastia) A Pashtun is generous to guests; a guest who rejects hospitality insults the host's honor.

Revenge (Baday) A Pashtun must avenge perceived insults to his honor, regardless of time and consequences; Pashtuns can wait years for revenge. Insults to women are particularly grievous.

Bravery (Jawbi) Bravery is honorable and manly; defensive or security roles in combat are considered shameful and insulting. Conducting an act of bravery, such as a surprise attack against a superior force, brings honor to a Pashtun and his tribe, resulting in high morale.

Honor (Nang) A Pashtun shows honor to the kin group, and devotion and loyalty to family, tribe, and leaders. *Nang* is evident in one's willingness to defend territory, property, and individuals.

Pashtun priorities are: *zar* (gold), *zan* (women), and *zamin* (land).

Poppy (Opium)

Poppy
Primary cash crop in Afghanistan – more than half of the country's 2007 GDP. In 2009, more than 40 percent of the world's opium was grown in Helmand Province. Poppy needs little attention and little water – unlike wheat. Huge profits: Per hectare, poppy brings 10 times the profit of wheat. The Taliban profits from poppy sales and encourages farmers to grow it.

Poppy Cycle

- Planting** (October/November): Poppy lies dormant in winter.
- Flower** (April): Poppy flowers for 2-3 weeks. Petals fall off, and its small fruit pod continues to develop for 2 more weeks.
- Harvest** (May): Pod surface is cut (scored). Sap oozes, dries overnight, and is gathered in the morning. Process is repeated for several days on same pods.

Processing

Approximately 80mg of raw opium resin is collected per pod in plastic bags, then formed into bricks and dried in sun. Once dry, resin can be stored indefinitely. Farmers keep some to be used as cash. The remainder is sold to traffickers, middlemen, or the Taliban.

10kg of raw opium = 1kg of Heroin

Opium converted to Heroin in drug labs. Multi-step process uses several 55-gallon drums and much water and heat.

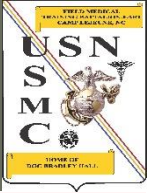
Look for: water storage tanks, 55 gallon drums, large hydraulic presses, large amount of firewood/charcoal, and chemicals (Calcium Carbonate, Ammonium Chloride, Methyl Alcohol, Sulfuric or Hydrochloric Acid).

ISAF Country Flags

ISAF member nations in Afghanistan are listed here in descending order according to in-country troop strength as of March 2010.

RC South/West	RC North/East/Kabul
United Kingdom	Germany
Italy	France
Canada	Poland
Netherlands	Turkey
Australia	Belgium
Spain	Sweden
Romania	Norway
Denmark	Czech Republic
Bulgaria	Hungary
Slovakia	Croatia
Albania	Macedonia
New Zealand	Latvia
Georgia	Portugal
Estonia	Finland
Lithuania	Azerbaijan
Slovenia	Greece

AO RELIGIONS RESEARCH



Library of Congress On-Line (Example)

The Library of Congress >> Especially for Researchers >> Research Centers

Country Studies

Federal Research Division
Library of Congress

[Home](#) >> **Country Studies** Find in Federal Research Division Pages

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Find information across all countries or any combination of countries.

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Portals to the World

Library of Congress links to electronic resources from around the world.

This Web site contains the online versions of books previously published (1988-98) in hard copy by the **Federal Research Division** of the Library of Congress under the Country Studies/Area Handbook Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Army. Because the original intent of the series' sponsor was to focus primarily on lesser-known areas of the world or regions in which U.S. forces might be deployed, **the series is not all-inclusive**. At present, 101 countries and regions are covered. The date of information for each country appears on the title page of each country and at the end of each section of text.

This Web site also contains brief, more up-to-date [Country Profiles](#) on select countries.

[Top of Page](#)

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AO RELIGIONS RESEARCH



ProQuest Culture Gram On-Line (Example)

Address <http://online.culturegrams.com/secure/world/index.php>

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Select a Region or Country...

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The map is a world map with continents labeled in large black text: North America (blue), South America (green), Europe (orange), Africa (brown), Asia (red), and Oceania (purple). The oceans are light blue.

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QUESTIONS

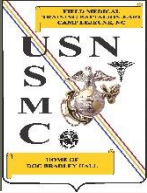
PREPARE A BRIEF



- RMTs must always possess current knowledge of available computer hardware/software resources to include the latest version of Microsoft Office Suites.
- At a minimum, the following religion and culture information categories must be included in the brief;
 - Religions in the AO
 - Clergy in the AO
 - Religious Beliefs
 - Worship Types/Times
 - Religion/People Relationship
 - Religion Socio/Eco Influence
 - Religion/Govern. Influence
 - Religious Schools Locations

PREPARE A BRIEF

(Categories In-Detail)

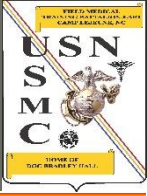


GUIDE TO ADVISING ON RELIGIONS

AREAS OF CONCERN	SPECIFIC INFORMATION
Religions in the Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized Unorganized Relations between religions and religious leaders, both indigenous and missionary
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number, locations, and education of clergy Influence on government and populace
Religious Beliefs	<p>Major tenets of each religion, to include such concepts as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith Impact of faith on life Significant dates Concepts of salvation and hereafter Ceremonies and practices associated with death and burial Rites of cleaning and purification Degree of religious conviction in lives of indigenous populace
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms of worship Places of worship Frequency of worship Significance of worship
Relationship Between Religion and Motivation of Indigenous People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strength of religious sentiment Influence of religion on daily life
Relationship Between Religion and Trans-Cultural Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attitudes toward people of other races and cultures Acceptable kinds of social interaction
Socio-Economic Influence of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence of religious leaders Influence of religion on society Economic influence of religion Religious ownership of property and other possessions Teachings of religion about private property Relationship of religious leaders to economic leaders
Relations with Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship of religious leaders to government officials Role of religion and religious leaders in armed forces Political influence of religious leaders
Religious Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location, size, and attendance Influence Relationship to nonreligious schools

QUESTIONS

DELIVER A BRIEF



Proper
planning
prevents
poor
performance

- Ensure your brief is in a command approved format.
- Review your brief with RMT members for accuracy.
- Rehearse your brief.
- Schedule delivery date, time and location.
- Ensure you have appropriate number of seating and required computer hardware.
- Be prepared to receive and answer questions.



QUESTIONS

SUMMARY



- ◆ **Commander's Intent / RMT Advisement**
- ◆ **Survey/Research Area of Operations (AO)**
 - Prominent Religions in (AO)
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 - Beliefs & Worship Practices in (AO)
 - Religion's Social/Economic Influence in (AO)
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- ◆ **Deliver a Brief**

BACKUP SLIDES

**Momma Said,
Only if they study.**